EXECUTIVE
GE2/A*
PR8-1
FE7-2

EF/6F

(2)

Checked by GAO Date

June 10, 1968

MEMO to Mrs. Johnson
FROM Mary Rather

A Mr. Donald Stewart with the American College of Arms in Baltimore, Maryland, was brought by Senator Daniel Brewster of Maryland to see the President and to present to him this Coat of Arms designed by the American College of Arms.

The President had me come in his office at the time, and I listened, and have prepared the attached memo in explanation of the Coat of Arms and a vocabulary of heraldic terms that are involved. He also asked me to get it over to you.

I agree with you that it would be nicer, if one wanted to use a Coat of Arms, to have an ancient family one prepared in Europe for an ancestor.

Howeggr, this is just one that this American coat of arms group has thought up for the President because he is President -- based in part, they say -- on an ancient Johnson coat of arms. And, of course, the President didn't request it; they just asked for an appointment to present it to him.

He immediately told me to get it to you, and I assume he would want any thoughts you have in the matter.

I will get it back in a few days to have it photographed and catalogued by Lucy Ferguson, and a letter of thanks written if that is necessary.

NOTE FOR FILES:

Since this gift was personally presented -

and in view of the note from Jim which is

attached --- I don't think further acknowledgment

is necessary.

Lucy Ferguson

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Checked by Gift Unit June 13, 1968

Mary:

Mrs. Johnson asked me to pass this back to you -- "I would hope to send a polite thank you and a disclaimer along these lines -- 'very interesting, but I do not want to get a personal crest at this time.' "

In other words, a polite no -- feel free to call Mrs. Johnson if you want more info.

marilyn

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JUL 20 1968
CENTRAL FILES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Library of Congress
says that this organization
is strictly a commercial venture
and is totally unrelated
to the English and French
Heraldic groups. Further-
more they disagree (strongly)
with the statement that
all Presidents with the
exception of two have
inherited or (have) been granted
arms.

Jim

EXPLANATION OF COAT OF ARMS

This Coat of Arms was prepared by the American College of Arms in Baltimore, Maryland.

The shield azure and saltire gules (meaning the blue shield and red cross in center of shield) and the bordure argent (the thin silver border of the red cross) comes from the "original Johnsnn arms," according to Mr. Donald Stewart with the American College of Arms in Baltimore, Maryland.

The mullet or (the gold star in center of the cross) represents the Lone Star State.

The four eagles are as follows:

One at top - President Johnson
One at bottom - Mrs. Johnson
One at left - Luci
One at right - Lynda

The crest which is above the shield is an armoured gauntlet (that is, a gloved hand or fist), representing strength and courage, and the guantlet supports an eagle which represents Freedom and the American Nation.

The large eagles with wings displayed (called supporters in heraldic language) on each side of the shield are something the American College of Arms has reserved for Presidents.

The Latin at the bottom, according to Mr. Stewart, is an ancient Johnson family motto meaning "Virtue, not lineage, is the mark of Nobility."

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Note last paragraph on attached communicatinn from Stewart in which he says that all Amercan Presidents have had coats of Arms except Harding and Andrew Johnson, but that this one he has prepared is the first truly American Arms granted to an American President by an American Heraldic Authority.

VOCABULARY

Argent - silver

Arms - the heraldic device adopted by a family

Azure - blue

Bend - diagonal band

Bordure - a border around a heraldic shield

Crest - the heraldic device depicted above the escutcheon

Dexter - right side

Escutcheon - shield

Gauntlet - a glove to protect the hand worn with medieval armor

Gules - red

Mullet - star

Or - gold

Saltire - heraldic ordinary consisting of a cross formed by a bend dexter and a bend sinister crossing in the center

Sinister - left side

Supporters - men or animals placed one on each side of an escutcheon and exterior to it

REG - TM.

The American College of Arms

Harbormaster's Building
Herald's Mews on Longdock
Pier 4 Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland - 21202

(1-301) VE-7-1776

Description of the Arms of Lyndon Baines Johnson, President of the United States

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Arms- On a shield azure, a saltire gules, bordure argent surmounted by a mullet or. Four eagles displayed or.

Crest- An armoured gauntlet argent supporting an eagle or.

Motto: (Latin)- Nobilitatis Virtus Non Stemme Character which is the ancient Johnson Family Motto meaning Virtue, not lineage, is the mark of Nobility.

Supporters- An eagle with wings displayed proper (this reserved for the Presidents)

The shield and saltire is for the Johnson Family (original Johnson arms) and the mullet (star) represents the lone star of the State of Texas. The four eagles represent the four members of the immediate family of the President, Eagle Chief Point- Lyndon Baines Johnson, Eagle base point- Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson, Eagle- sinister flank- Luci Baines and eagle dexter flank- Lynda Bird.

The crest depicts- an armoured gauntlet representing both strength and courage supports the eagle representing Freedom and the American Nation.

A Short History of the Arms of the Presidents of the United States

Each American President has either inherited or was granted arms except Presidents Andrew Johnson and Warren G. Harding. These arms of the Presidents have been created by many European Heraldic Authorities including British, Scot, Irish, Dutch, Danish, Swedish and Germany Offices. Presidents Eisenhower's Arms were created by the Danish Government in order that he might receive the Order of The Elephant while President Kennedy's arms were created by the Irish Heralds of Dublin Castle. These are the first truly American Arms granted to an American President by an American Heraldic Authority- The American College of Arms.

Donald Franklin Stewart

Donald Franklin Stewart-OSJ.,KCT, GCS.
Chief Herald Marshall of the American College of Arms

May 23, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR MILDRED STEGALL

Senator Dan Brewster wrote and asked if he and Mr. Donald Stewart of the American College of Arms could come in to present the President a Johnson Coat of Arms. Will you make a quick check with Deke as to whether Mr. Stewart is okay.

James R. Jones

JRJ:sas

EXECUTIVE (6)

HI2/5 *
PR8-1/5 *
FE 7-2
PR13

ex/prem

May 22, 1968

Mr. President:

Senator Brewster writes on behalf of Mr. Donald Stewart of the American College of Arms.

Mr. Stewart stated to the Senator that when the President was in Baltimore in 1960, he drove him to an affair there and the President stated he would like a Johnson Coat of Arms.

They have finally finished the necessary research and completed the Coat of Arms.

Mr. Stewart, with the Senator accompanying him, would like to present it anytime after the first of June.

Would the President wish arrangements to be made for this presentation?

Yes _____ No _____

Or acceptance by staff member on his behalf?

Yes _____ No _____

Or decline completely? Yes _____ No _____

Jim Jones

5/28 to Walt to check

Dan Has had this 6/10/68 Off Record

CENTRAL FILES
JUN 10 1968
RECEIVED

Nothing else sent to Central Files as of 7/2/68

W. P.

EXECUTIVE

Name	Date
Mr. Hopkins	12-31-68

May 22, 1968

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Or decline completely? Yes _____ No _____

Jim Jones

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JUN1 0 1968
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Nothing else sent to
Central Files as of _____